

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 72, 92-96, 102-104, and 117-129 are pending in the application, with claims 72, 102, 118, 125, 128, and 129 being the independent claims. Claims 72 and 125 are sought to be amended to correct informalities. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 102, 117-124, 128, and 129 are allowed.

Double-Patenting Rejection

Claim 72 was rejected under non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent 5,999,908 to Abelow. Applicant is submitting a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection with respect to claim 72 for double patenting.

Objection to the Claims

On Page three of the Office Action, claims 72 and 125 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 72 and 125 have been amended to correct the informalities

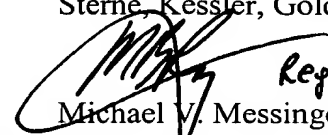
noted by the Examiner. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: December 15, 2005
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